THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Jharkhand representatives put forth their perceptions of the problems of the region and sougnt protection for their language culture and identity. The representatives also expressed their willingness to continue the process of talks. The Union Home Minister impressed upon them that nothing should be done which might impair the unity and integrity of the country and that it should be possible to find a mutually acceptable solution to the problems of the people of the area. The concern of the Central Government and the State Government was reiterated in this meeting for development of the region and for improving the lot of the people of the region.

(c) and (d) Copies of the memorandum submitted by Jharkhand representatives have been sent to the State Governments of Bihar, Madya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal.

Implementation of afforestation programme in catchment areas of Orissa

275. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have taken up afforestation programme in the catchment areas in different States ; and

(b) if so, what specific afforestation programme has been undertaken in the catchment areas of different rivers and the river projects in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes Sir. There is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Agriculture called Soil Conservation in the catchment of River Valley Projects which has afforestation as a component.

(b) Under this schme, in Orissa afforestation work is being done in catchments of Hirakud, Machkund/Sileru and Rengali/Mandira.

Performance of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation

276. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC has been incurrnig losses ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the year since when MMTC is running at loss ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the performance of MMTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Issuance of guidelines by Government to State Bank of Indore for Assistance to Small Scale Industries

277. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to issue new guidelines to the State Bank of Indore in regard to giving assistance to small scale industries ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) RBI have reported that guidelines for advances to priority sector including SSI sector had already been issued by them to all scheduled commercial banks. These have been reiterated to banks from time to time. Banks have also been advised by RBI to pay special attention to the credit requirements of small scale industries and to take suitable action on aspects such as timely sanction of working capital limits, adequacy of working capital limits and coordination between commercial banks and State Financial Corporations, etc.

Charges of irregularities against employees of nationalised Banks/ State Bank of Indore

278. SHRI VISHWAS RAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of nationalised banks against whom cases of irregularities has been registered during the last three years, bankwise ; and

(b) the number of employees of State Bank of Indore against whom cases of irregularities have been registered/pending in courts for the last many years and the details in this regard, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that its present data maintenance system does not generate information regarding the number of employees of Public Sector Bank against whom cases for committing various irregularities have been registered. However, details of action taken by 28 Public Sector Banks) (including State Bank of Indore against their employees who were found involved in cases of frauds during the years 1986, 1987 and 1988, as reported to RBI, are given below :

	1986	1987	1988
1. No. of employees convicted	51	88	99
2. No. of employees given major/minor penalties . .	683	944	706
3. No. of employees against whom prosecution is pending in the courts	665	590	595
4. No. of employees against whom departmental proceedings are pending.	1306	1384	1311

(Data provisional)

Pakistan Government's assurance on checking terrorism in Kashmir

279. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government has given an assurance to extend cooperation in checking the infiltration of terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir and also in checking the flow of arms and ammunition into that State ; and

(b) if not, what urgent steps the Central Government propose to